

The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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President's Corner

By Tom Strikwerda

A Diverse Organization

Several items of note are on my mind as we begin the 2015-2016 birding year. The first item is the recurring appeal for volunteers. In an organization of our size, with more than 25 committees or projects, it's not unusual for several committee chairs or project leaders to resign every year. Fortunately, we're doing quite well overall, with MOS members standing up to take the places of those who rotate out of positions, often without a strong appeal. And this is often true at the chapter level also. A "Thank you" goes out to all who are chapter officers and represent the chapters on the state board. However, we have very serious needs for volunteers to fill several key vacancies at the state level. Our most critical need is for a conference chair, but we also need leaders for our development/membership activities and for nominations. Without a conference chair, it will be very difficult to hold an annual conference next year. In addition, volunteers are needed to help the current chair carry out the committee's charter. Please help! Contact me if you have questions or any inclination to help.

There have been several key accomplishments and events this year. I reported in one of my columns that MOS had received a request for an easement through our Piscataway Sanctuary in Prince Georges County. The neighboring landowner/developer requested the easement so they could build a sewer line across the sanctuary. At our June meeting the MOS Board agreed to grant the request. Although habitat will be disturbed during the construction, the site, for the most part, will be allowed to return to its natural state afterwards, save for a pathway along the sewer alignment that we will use to better access the site. In addition, a small pavilion or shelter will be built, along with a parking area and trail down to the easement path, to aid access to Piscataway Sanctuary.

Our conservation committee, led by Kurt Schwarz, has drafted a policy statement on feral cats that will be voted on by the MOS Board at an upcoming meeting. The Board has already reviewed a draft and provided comments. As most of you know, feral and free roaming domestic cats kill an enormous number of birds every year. There's been a push recently in a number of communities in Maryland to establish trap, neuter, and release (TNR) programs for feral cats. These programs are

obviously controversial and MOS believes providing testimony and a formal position paper is imperative response. We hope you'll read the position paper when it's available to become better informed about TNR, and take action where appropriate in your community or at the state level.

Under the leadership of Colin Rees, our long range planning committee continues to research establishing a bird observatory in Maryland. Considerable data have been gathered on what states or organizations have done to establish observatories, and several Maryland meetings have been held to discuss ideas for goals and projects suitable for Maryland. Please contact Colin if you'd like to get involved in the early stages of this effort or have suggestions.

And the Maryland Birding Trail committee has been revitalized, with Joan Cwi leading the team. Site descriptions are being written for posting on a website, whose design is in progress. Perhaps by the time you read this edition of the Yellowthroat

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the preliminary write-ups will be available for review. This is one of those projects that were started many years ago but lost momentum; thanks to the current team for standing up to make it happen!

The last item I'll mention is Maryland Birdlife. You should have received Maryland Birdlife issues again after a long hiatus, thanks to Gene Scarpulla, who accepted the challenge as editor, with assistance from Mark Johnson, associate editor. I think you'll agree that it's a classy publication. We're really happy to see the revival! Please contact Gene or Mark if you would like to contribute an article.

These items are but a part of MOS activities, and by no means is it an exhaustive list! But they are good examples of the depth and breadth of MOS. As events and accomplishments unfold this year I hope to highlight them as well. Best wishes for the 2015-2016 birding year!

Social Networking

"Maryland Ornithological Society" is a new Facebook page! Facebook members can check in for current information on MOS news and events, and articles and legislative alerts. Please take a look and "like" the page, and share it with your birding friends.

Barbara Johnson

Chandler Robbins and George Radcliffe receive well-deserved honors

On May 16, 2015, at the MOS Conference in Hagerstown, two eminent members of MOS received awards from the American Birding Association: Chandler Robbins of Laurel, dean of Maryland birders and a living legend in birding, received The Roger Tory Peterson Award, ABA's most prestigious award, given "for a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding..."

And, in a most delightfully apt companion presentation, George Radcliffe, a retired middle school teacher and a resident of Cambridge, received ABA's Chandler Robbins Award for his work with Maryland Youth Birders (YMOS). The award with Chan's name is given by ABA "for making significant contributions to birder education and/or bird conservation."

The award presentations were made by ABA President Jeff Gordon, who now is based in Delaware City, DE, having moved recently from the former ABA headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Michael Bowen
Montgomery Bird Club
Chair, Awards Committee
American Birding Association



George Radcliffe, ABA Chandler Robbins Awardee, with ABA President Jeff Gordon and Liz Gordon



Chan Robbins, ABA Roger Tory Peterson Awardee, with ABA President Jeff Gordon and Liz Gordon

Photo credit (both photographs): Sean McCandless



MOS 2016 Scholarships Announced

by: Kate Tufts, Chair
Scholarship Committee

If you are a teacher or naturalist involved with conservation and environmental education here is your chance to apply for a scholarship to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) annually awards a number of scholarships which include tuition, room and board for a 5- or 6-day intensive course of study in ornithology, ecology, conservation and natural history. Travel arrangements and costs are the recipient's responsibility.

The Hog Island Audubon Camps are known for their high levels of instruction by top-notch educators such as Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul and Steve Kress. The location is stunning and the food is first rate.

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Scholarships from page 2

Tentatively, courses offered for 2016 scholarships will be:

Joy of Birding: June 5 - 10

Field Ornithology: June 12 - 17

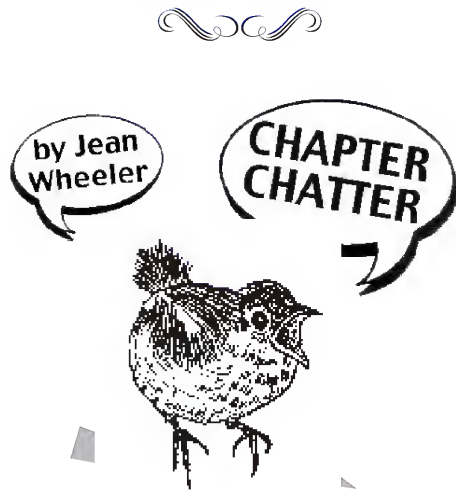
Hands-on Bird Science: June 19 - 24

Raptor Rapture: July 10 - 15

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week: July 17 - 22

For details regarding the application process, please check the MOS web site: www.mdbirds.org and click on "Education."

Scholarships are also available for the Maryland Bird and Bird Habitats program co-sponsored with Washington College Center for Environment and Society, Chestertown, Maryland. Details will be available on www.mdbirds.org.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Ecuador April -May 2015

My wife *Carol Swan* and I completed an eco-tour of Ecuador. This fabulous expedition covered 3 of the 4 Ecuadorian eco-zones — the high Sierra of the western Andes, the Galapagos, and the Pacific Coast. Many wildlife species were observed, including more than 350 species of birds. I found my #1 target species, the amazing Andean Cock-of-the-Rock male.

We spent 5 days birding northwest of Quito in the Andes with 4 nights at the Tandayapa Bird Lodge guided by Andres Vasquez of Tropical Birding. Our guide was an excellent birder. He's the author along with illustrator W. Niles McMullan of a SPOT field guide *Birds of Northwest Ecuador*, so we saw nearly 300 species, at least 260 life birds for me on this leg of the trip. We had 38 species of hummers with many at the lodge's feeders--sometimes 100 hummers at a time. Many bird species were endemic to the Choco region of the Andes including such hummingbirds as Gorgeted Sunangel, White-whiskered Hermit, Violet-tailed Sylph, Velvet-purple Coronet, Purple-bibbed Whitetip, and Booted-racket Tail. At a higher elevation we spotted Sword-billed Hummingbird and near Quito the largest in the world, the Giant Hummingbird. Other endemic Choco bird species included the Dark-backed Wood Quail, Toucan Barbet, the Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Choco Tyrannulet, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Beautiful Jay and many more. The sight of Masked Water-tyrants with the male

doing a mating dance was thrilling.

On the Galapagos leg of the trip through International Expeditions, we visited 8 islands over 7 days at sea. We had 40 species of birds including such endemics as Lava Gull, Waved Albatross, Nazca Booby, Lava Heron, Galapagos Petrel and Shearwater, 6 species of Darwin's Finches, Flightless Cormorant, and Galapagos Hawk, Mockingbird, Penguin, Martin, Rail, and Dove. We saw the Caribbean Flamingo, many Blue-footed Boobies, and the only oceanic and nocturnal gull and perhaps, the most beautiful of all gulls, the Swallow-tailed Gull which hunts squid at night. Also seen were giant tortoises, lava lizards, land iguanas, marine iguanas, and green turtles and I snorkeled with the latter two and the penguins.

Back on the mainland, our driver/guide on our Cerro Blanco and Guayaquil tour was knowledgeable and we saw more good birds throughout the day (2 more hummingbird species making it 40 total), Ecuadorian Trogon, Gray-cheeked Parakeet, Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner, White-tailed Jay, Fasciated Wren, Saffron Siskin, Pacific Parrotlet, Peruvian Pygmy-Owl, and White-winged Parakeet. Throughout this trip, in addition to the birds and wildlife, we learned much about the two major cities and Ecuadorian culture and history.

Gerald Winegrad



Photo of Toucan Barbet

CARROLL COUNTY

"Backyard" at the Zoo

On Sunday, July 19, Carroll County Bird Club members traveled to the National Zoo in Washington, where we enjoyed a rare treat: a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo's Bird House facilities. Our guide, Debi Talbott, showed herself to be both bird expert and bird lover as she shared facts and stories about the "backyard" birds at the zoo. We learned about artificial insemination of Stanley Cranes; met Rocky, a Whooping Crane whose partner has learned to accept his unusual "voice" as normal; fed Greater Rheas, who seem to prefer romaine lettuce to dandelion greens (no surprise there!); and ogled young Yellow-Crowned Night Herons. A highlight was meeting the last of the North Island Brown Kiwis bred at the zoo and learning what makes kiwis unusual in the bird world. The star of the tour, however, was Alice, a Stanley Crane (also known as Blue Crane) who was raised

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by staff at the zoo and who seems to believe she, too, is part of the staff. Alice (shown in the attached picture) joined us on our walk and seemed quite at home leading the Carroll County members of her “flock” around the grounds! After the tour, of course, there was a whole zoo to see, including the rest of the birds in the Bird House and the many non-captive birds enjoying the zoo grounds. The tour was very special, and we thank Debi and the Zoo for giving us the opportunity to experience it.



Photo of Stanley Crane, “Alice.”

Thank the Snake

Birders don't usually think “snake” and “good luck” at the same time. But Carroll County birder *Jo Morrison* has been thinking that way all this summer. On her daily walk early in June, Jo happened upon a dead snake on her usual path and decided to take another path. Soon, Jo heard a woodpecker hammering and looked to find a Red-headed Woodpecker flying out of a hole in a dead tree. Every day but one since that day, she has seen a pair of Red-heads busy with what seems to be nesting behavior. Their hole is about 30 feet up in a dead tree, so she can't see into it for direct evidence, but the birds have been going in and out of the hole, guarding the area, foraging nearby, and lately appearing to bring “breakfast” to whatever is in the tree they visit regularly. There's no way to know when or even if eggs were laid, but we have our fingers crossed that Jo will soon see baby Red-heads peeking out at the world! If that happens, we hope she will capture the newcomers' images on disk and share them with the rest of us. If you'd like to see pictures of the woodpeckers she's been watching, along with great pictures of other birds she has seen lately, check out the facebook page at “<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jo-Morrison/137682264061>”. Jo's experience is a welcome reminder that obstacles in the path can be a really good thing!

CJ McAuliffe

CECIL COUNTY

Cecil Bird Club's Co - President *Ken Drier* and *Kimberleigh* were on the road again. This time we can catch up with them and a group of about ten friends partying down south of the border at the Riviera Maya in Mexico. This was not their first journey to this part of the world so life birds were not to be racked up. One of the groups' favorite birds, was the Magnificent Frigatebird. Several flew over the beach low so excellent viewing was to be had. Both Social Flycatchers and the very similar but much larger Great Kiskadee were ever present at the resort. Hummingbirds are always cool and the Cinnamon Hummingbird was no exception with its brown breast and tail and a red beak. The coolest experience was walking to a cenote or limestone cave or sinkhole. The walk through the jungle produced Black headed Trogons. A large colorful bird with a yellow breast, green and blue back and a long squared off green tail. This was then topped by a Turquoise -browed Motmot sitting not five feet away on a rock while Ken was swimming in the cenote. Neither of these proved to be a life bird though on this trip. That distinction went to the Red-billed Pigeon. The snorkeling right from the beach was excellent as well. Sea turtles and rays could be seen along with the most colorful Turquoise Parrotfish just below the water's surface. A good time was had by all who went.

Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

Trinidad & Tobago: An Island Ecosystem Adventure

On 11 June 2015, *Dennis* and *Jean Kirkwood* launched a 10-day birding adventure to the two-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Our group included: *Elaine Beery, Martie Crouse, Les Eastman, Marjie Heagy, Susan & Bob Hood, Allie & Bob Murphy, Liz Pratt, Melody & Joe Stevens, and Bob Werrlein*. First stop was the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Center in the midst of Trinidad's tropical rainforest. Ironically, the first bird seen there was a female Green Hermit crammed into a cone-shaped nest, at the tip of a Heliconia leaf in the AWNC carport. Looking out from the veranda, we found the rainforest and flowering gardens below alive with tropical birds that nature had spent thousands of years in the making. Their biodiversity and its survival had been conserved here by 11,000 yrs of isolation from the Venezuelan cordillera. White-necked Jacobins, Green- & Purple-Honeycreepers, Tufted Coquettes, Bearded Bellbirds, Barred Antshrikes, Silver-beaked tanagers, Orange-winged Parrots, and dozens more of the 159 local species were accessible from the veranda. Jungle walks on “Discovery Trail” took us to White-bearded Manakin Leks with glimpses of bouncy, ritualistic courtship dances; and to Dunston caves where a rare colony of nocturnal, fruit-eating, echo-locating Oilbirds were nesting. At Matura Bay, an east-coast marine ecosystem, we witnessed the night-time nesting of a 1000-lb leather-back sea turtle. In the Caroni (mangrove) Swamp, on the west coast of Trinidad, we saw a Cocoli heron, a 7-8 ft long Tree Boa, and we sat in awe at the spectacular evening roosting flight of nearly 1000 Scarlet Ibis.

In Tobago, we photographed endemic Blue-crowned Motmots, brilliant Ruby-topaz Hummingbirds, White-tailed Sabrewing, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Brown Boobies, and

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much more. By trips end (20 June) we had located 192 of 470 bird species listed for T & T. We had drunk our share of complimentary rum punch, eaten well, taken lots of pictures, enjoyed the steel-drum culture, and returned home enriched and refreshed by the experience.

Robert J. Werrlein



Photo of Purple Honeycreeper

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Gail Mackiernan reports that she and *Barry Cooper* made a short trip to the exotic, other-worldly locale of Las Vegas in early May -- not to hit the slots or the roulette table, but to look for western birds. "Las Vegas is surrounded by bird-rich desert, mountain and riparian habitats, and May is the height of migration as well. A morning visit to Corn Creek Field Station, (part of the huge Desert National Wildlife Refuge), found the oasis alive with hundreds of migrating Wilson's, Audubon's and Yellow Warblers, with a few smashing male MacGillivray's Warblers thrown in, plus Bullock's Orioles and other species such as Western Wood-pewee and Western Tanager. Breeding species here include Verdin, Lucy's Warbler, as well as brilliant Anna's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds. The extensive saltbush desert surrounding the city holds Burrowing Owls, Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Abert's Towhee, Bell's and Sagebrush Sparrows, and (at dusk) scores of Lesser Nighthawks. In the mountains to the west of the city can be found such goodies as Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western and Mountain Bluebird, Green-tailed Towhee, and Pygmy Nuthatch. Las Vegas and its surrounding communities are very careful about water use; a number of wetland parks catch "gray water" from the city, purify it in ponds and wetlands, and return it to Lake Mead. (For every gallon returned, they are allowed to withdraw a gallon from the lake). These parks are magnets in the desert for such species as American Avocets, Wilson's Phalaropes, Eared Grebes, Cinnamon Teal and (unexpected) breeding Redheads, and colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We saw 130 species of birds in just 3 days, plus a lot of spectacular scenery as well. You just have to ignore the temptation of the rows of slot machines, although the city's many excellent restaurants can cap an eventful day of desert birding!"

Chris Wright

TALBOT COUNTY

Harry, Liz, and George Armistead with neighbor *Ginny*

Raynor-Smith traveled to South Africa October 4-18, 2014, on an American Birding Association trip led by the excellent guides of Rockjumper, the worldwide tour company based in S.A. The tour spent a week in the Capetown-Cape of Good Hope area, a second week in the south end of Kruger National Park. There were 103 of us but Rockjumper's logistical organization was flawless. Each day we were in groups of only 7-11 all day with the same guide in discrete areas. I saw 322 bird species, 42 mammals. It would be more accurate to say that many of these I was simply shown since much of the time I didn't know what I was looking at and/or the birds were ones I had never even heard of before. Family group totals were 7 gallinaceous species, 6 storks, 14 heron types, 29 diurnal raptors, 4 rallids, 25 shorebirds, 8 larids, 10 pigeons/doves, 8 cuckoos, 6 owls (all well-seen in the daytime), 5 swifts, 6 kingfishers, 3 bee-eaters, 4 hornbills, 4 corvids, 9 swallows, 7 bulbuls, 13 cisticolas, 14 Old World flycatchers, 6 starlings, 7 sunbirds, 6 wagtails/pipits, and 11 weavers. Among the 3 of us we saw all the "big five": lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, and rhinoceros, but missed some of the so-called "little five": lion ant, Leopard Tortoise, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, elephant shrew, and rhinoceros beetle. We also saw venomous Puffadders, a bright yellow cobra, many giraffes, cheetahs, zebras, hippos, various antelopes (especially the abundant Impala), rock hyraxes, 3 mongoose species, the civet, baboons, monkeys, bush babies, and Peter's Epauletted Fruit-Bat. In the wilderness area of Cape of Good Hope, up high next to the lighthouse base, were House Sparrows. Kruger in the south is essentially a forest albeit a mostly open one and it was strange to see the big mammals in such a rather enclosed setting, so different from the open savannas with acacias of East Africa one usually associates these big animals with thanks to innumerable PBS specials. The Cape of Good Hope-Capetown area was much more scenic with dramatic, large hills and splendid seascapes with gannets, oystercatchers, terns, African Penguins (formerly called Jackass Penguins after their braying calls) and cormorants. George went early and stayed with Rockjumper's President, Adam Riley. They traveled to the Kingdom of Lesotho, ascended up to 10,000 feet, and saw Lammergeiers. This was a trip that will stick to the ribs for the duration.

Harry Armistead

TRI-COUNTY

Joined by members of their church, Tri-County members *Doug & Sally Ruby*, along with *Carol Broderick*, *Chris Dominick*, *Charlie Stegman*, *Mike Walsh* and *Cele & Pete Zerhusen*, flew into Salt Lake City, Utah on Saturday, June 6th for a week of birding out west. We immediately went to Farmington Bay WMA and had Black-necked Stilts on nests with visible eggs, American Coot in courtship, and Swanson's Hawks soaring overhead. At Antelope Island State Park we had breeding plumaged Eared Grebes and Ruddy Ducks. A Chukar at the visitors center was a treat as were Long-billed Curlews, Burrowing Owls, and Sage Thrashers. While on the island we had our first flat tire—it was amazing that it took three physicians to change the tire! Our last stop that day was Bear River Refuge where we had displaying Western and Clark's Grebes with young. This was only the first day.

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On Monday, our highlights were American Dipper, singing Lincoln's Sparrow, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch and Western Tanager. Tuesday, we were in dry sagebrush areas where Common Nighthawks were plentiful and special was a Ferruginous Hawk on a nest with chick. Then it was on to Jackson Hole, the Grand Teton's and Yellowstone National Park where Barrow's Goldeneye were plentiful. On Thursday, we headed for the Beartooth Mountains and 40 degree temps, snow and strong winds. American Pipits fed along the road and the special treat was two Black-Rosy Finches. Back then to Yellowstone and a picnic area where a Williamson's Sapsucker was carrying food to a nearby nest. For dessert we had Mountain Bluebirds and Dusky Flycatcher. On the way to our next spot we had a Black Bear.... from the vans, of course. Friday's treat was a Sharp-tailed Grouse with chicks.

On Saturday, our last day before flying back on Sunday, we went to a nature area and had singing Virginia's Warblers, Chats and Swainson Thrush. The last day continued with Bullock's Oriole, Juniper Titmouse and a flushed Barn Owl. We made it to our last motel quickly since the speed limit was 80 mph.

Sunday, our last day, we had our second flat tire on the way to the airport which made getting there for our flight extremely close. When we arrived at BWI our leader breathed a sigh of relief. The rest of us returned home with great sightings still fresh and great praise for our leaders, Doug and Sally Ruby.

Carol Broderick



MARYLAND FALL COUNT 2015

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the 3rd weekend of September in Maryland. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday the 19th or Sunday the 20th to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it is great fun.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A new checklist compilation form (AOU Supplement order 55) is available on the MOS website, in the "Species Counts" section: <http://www.mdbirds.org/counts/fall/fallcounts.html>. The list includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

Check *The Maryland Yellowthroat* Calendar for the Fall Counts, dates, and compilers that were confirmed by the calendar deadline

are listed. A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website link above. Anyone already organizing a count or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county currently without a coordinator are encouraged to contact the MOS Fall Count Coordinator (me!).

The deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/Chapter coordinator is October 1, 2015. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact me directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count period, are also asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to me by October 15.

Please plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,
MOS Fall Count Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: stirrbird@outlook.com



Conservation Committee Actions

The Spring Quarter 2015, as usual, proved to be a busy one for the Committee. Also as usual, domestic cats occupied a lot of our attention. The Committee drafted a letter and I testified orally to Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee in opposition to HB 876, which would have preempted local authorities' ability to handle any cat from a Trap-Neuter-Release colony and compel those authorities to return cats to place of origin. We were joined by American Bird Conservancy, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in opposing this bill. The bill remained in committee.

The Conservation Committee completed a draft policy statement on Free-Roaming Cats and TNR in May and presented it to the June MOS Board meeting. The draft policy is undergoing revision based on comments made at this meeting, and should be completed for a vote at the Fall Board meeting.

We submitted oral and written testimony to the House of Delegates and Senate committees opposing the repeal of the Watershed Protection and Remediation by the House of Delegates and Senate. These bills failed, but another one eliminating the requirement for a fee but still requiring runoff remediation was passed and signed

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by the Governor.

The Pollinator Protection Act, which we supported in both chambers of the state legislature, is being held over for study over the summer.

We wrote a letter supporting the purchase by the state of an inholding surrounded by Pokomoke State Forest, which was warmly received by Maryland DNR. The state Board of Public Works approved the purchase of the land.

We wrote Maryland's US Senators in opposition to a bill, which would have rolled back several environmental protections of BLM and Forest Service lands, and prevented the EPA from regulating lead in ammunition. It is still sitting in the Senate, with a co-sponsor signing on as late as May 19.

We wrote Governor Hogan in May reiterating our position that state forests and other lands are not suitable for ORV use. We support use of private lands for these purposes. This was in response to a public call by ORV enthusiasts to write the Governor seeking more ORV trails on state lands.

We wrote the director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service supporting the inclusion of a secondary non-waterfowl species on the federal duck stamp, as a means of increasing its appeal to the non-hunting public, and raise more funds for habitat purchase. Lobbying continues, and Stamp Friends put our comments at the very top of a summary of testimony so far.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair



Lights Out Baltimore: Saving Birds One Building at a Time

Carly Barron

Animal Keeper, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
Miami University's Global Field Program

Birds and Buildings

According to the [American Bird Conservancy](#), collisions with human built structures are the leading cause of death of migratory birds in North America, with between 100 million and 1 billion birds dying each year from collisions with buildings. In search of the guiding light of the moon and stars, migratory birds are drawn to and disoriented by cities and their clusters of artificially lit buildings. Once inside a city, migratory birds often have difficulty making their way back out and back to their intended migrations. Avian building collisions occur when these birds are then fooled by the reflection of outdoor vegetation in building windows or glass facades, or they see well-vegetated indoor courtyards or lobbies. The birds try to perch in a tree or bush, and instead strike the glass in a mistaken attempt to land. These collisions occur most often within the first thirty feet of a

structure. Many birds are killed by the window collisions, suffering brain trauma and other internal injuries. Others are simply stunned or sustain beak, wing, or leg damage serious enough to keep them from continuing with their intended migration.

The Role of Lights Out Baltimore

The Maryland-based non-profit, Lights Out Baltimore, is one of a number of organizations throughout North America dedicated to making cities safer for migratory birds. A major goal of LOB is to convince city officials to mandate that all decorative lighting (signage and other lighting unnecessary when buildings are not in use) be turned off during the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM during peak migration seasons. This organization also works closely with local business owners and community members to educate them about the value of protecting migratory birds through more bird-friendly lighting and building practices.

Beyond persuading community members to employ bird-friendly building and lighting practices, LOB performs daily monitoring of window collisions in downtown Baltimore during the spring and fall migration seasons. This daily monitoring requires volunteers to walk a fixed route through the downtown area between 5:00 AM and 8:00 AM. Volunteers inspect the perimeter of glass buildings, collecting all collision victims, both dead and alive. Dead birds are delivered to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, where they are catalogued and used in future research. Live birds are carefully inspected for injury, placed in paper bags to prevent further trauma, and brought to Phoenix Wildlife Center in Phoenix, Maryland for rehabilitation and eventual release.

What We Have Learned: Death Toll, At Risk Species, and Problem Buildings

Lights Out Baltimore members have collected data on each bird victim they have discovered since the fall migration season of 2008. Data collected includes date and address of collision, species, age, sex, whether the bird is dead or alive, and direction of impact.

Throughout its almost seven year existence, LOB has collected 2,483 window strike victims. Although 1,816 of these birds were found dead, the remaining 667 found alive were successfully transported to Phoenix Wildlife Center for critical care and rehabilitation. Through this daily monitoring, LOB has encountered a total of ninety-eight bird species. White-throated Sparrow has the highest number of collisions of all species recorded, making up 23% of the 2,483 birds catalogued by LOB. Other frequent victims include the Common Yellowthroat (13%), Ovenbird (10%), Gray Catbird (10%), twenty-three warbler species (6%), Song Sparrow (6%), and five thrush species (5%).

While over one hundred individual buildings have had avian collision incidents, the Baltimore Convention Center is responsible for the most collisions, with 840 individual incidents (34% of total collisions.) The Convention Center is most dangerous to migratory birds, as it spans two city blocks and has many glass walls. It also has a massive, well-lit glass lobby that contains various indoor plants. While the Convention Center has begun working with Lights Out Baltimore to employ more bird-friendly lighting practices, the abundant glass surfaces and

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excessive lighting, as well as the general enormity of the building, remain an issue to birds. Other heavily hit buildings include the Sun Life Building (181 collisions), TransAmerica building (147 collisions), the Harborplace pavilions (112 collisions), and Hopkins Plaza (122 collisions).

This valuable data has allowed LOB to identify the least bird-friendly buildings in the city and thus narrow their community efforts. This includes directly communicating with local businesses in the buildings listed above about turning off lights and appropriately bird-proofing windows and other glass surfaces. While changing city light usage laws will have to occur on the government level, working closely with individual businesses will certainly make a difference in decreasing bird deaths during critical migration periods.

Lights Out Baltimore continues to monitor avian window collisions during each migration season, saving injured birds and working closely with community members to spread awareness about bird-friendly lighting and building practices. The work being done by this organization is crucial to the survival of migratory birds, and will hopefully have an impact on future city planning. For more information regarding bird-friendly lighting and building design, or if you find an injured bird in the downtown area, please contact Lights Out Baltimore at (256) 493-7393 or lightsoutbaltimore@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.lightsoutbaltimore.org.



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

In early May the birders of Maryland are inundated with chances to find and enjoy the migrants that normally pass through our state. Warblers typically dominate the scene, but this year a tiny shorebird slipped in to give greatest joy to the many fortunate folks who managed to share the viewing. The bird was a SNOWY PLOVER, and this was the first reported sighting of the species in Maryland! The SNOWY PLOVER was initially found on Monday, May 4, by a team conducting a weekly bird census at Hart-Miller Island, Essex, Baltimore County. The team consisted of Bob Ringler, Kevin Graff, Joe Hanfman and Jeff Culler. The bird was foraging on the flat west berm in the north cell in the company of one SEMIPALMATED PLOVER along with several LEAST and SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS. The census team immediately recognized the special nature of this sighting, and promptly spread the word. Though the normal Hart-Miller schedule would not have allowed more birder visits until the following Monday, special arrangements were made with Maryland Environmental Services for additional birding visits on May 6 and May 8, including provision of a bus to transport the birders after they reached the island. These arrangements, negotiated with MES by Kevin Graff, allowed many more birders to share the sighting, attain highly satisfying views, get numerous splendid photos and just share in the pure joy of watching the gentle antics of a new Maryland species. The following Monday, during the next normal survey of Hart-Miller Island the bird was not found.

Another visiting species in our area that showed up in early May was a NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, reported at Violette's Lock in Montgomery County on May 9. The finder was Mike Ostrowski of Derwood, MD. This bird has remained in the same general area throughout the summer and was still being regularly reported as of Jul 22. It quite possibly is the same bird as seen in that region during much of the summer of 2014. The present bird has been quite reliable as a target species, thereby providing great pleasure for numerous local birders.

In late May while looking for nesting warblers, Kevin Graff and Pete Webb flushed a RUFFED GROUSE in northwestern Baltimore County. The bird was found on May 30 at the end of the Hemlock Gorge Trail off Gunpowder Road in the Prettyboy Watershed. This medium-sized game bird, larger than a bobwhite but smaller than a pheasant first walked and then took flight along the edge of a steep hill upstream from the trail. This would be a fairly normal sighting in Garrett or Allegany County, but is quite unusual for Baltimore County. No later sightings were reported.

Within the warbler parade of the spring there were two sightings of GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS, a species for which the numbers in our area are getting quite low. The first was spotted on May 3 at Little Bennett RP in Montgomery County. The finder was Mike Ostrowski of Derwood. Mike attained a 20-minute view fairly early in the morning before the bird moved on and could not be relocated. Later in the month, on May 14, Lynne Parks found another GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER during a morning visit in Milford Mill Park, Baltimore County. This bird also did not loiter in the area, for no additional sightings were reported.

During the spring migration of goatsuckers through our region there are a few locations where one can manage to hear two species of them singing within hearing range of each other. At dusk on May 28 Dave Littlepage of Abingdon, Harford County, successfully found two calling WHIP-POOR-WILLS in the Soldiers Delight Natural Environmental Area of western Baltimore County. While enjoying the two he was suddenly treated to the added bonus of the song from a CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW that, according to Dave, --"was singing like crazy." Dave attained fine recordings of this unusual chorus.

CLIFF SWALLOW nesting colonies in Maryland are present at several locations if one knows where to look for them, but the discovery of new colonies is always good news. Such good news was reported June 21 from Little Falls, along the Potomac River in Montgomery County. At this location John Hubbell of Washington, DC, found 26 CLIFF SWALLOW nests under the bridge over the C&O Canal a short walk upstream from Lock 6. John also reported having seen CLIFF SWALLOWS in recent weeks near the Dalecarlia Reservoir which is not far from this nest site. Back on Jun 14, Hugh McGuinness of Washington, DC, confirmed that CLIFF SWALLOWS were again nesting in a hard-to-see site at Georgetown Reservoir in DC. The Georgetown Reservoir nests had been first reported in 2014 by Frank Hawkins of Washington, DC.

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And while on the subject of Washington, DC, sightings, it should be noted that an ARCTIC TERN made a brief visit to East Potomac Park (Hain's Point) on Jun 14. Frank Hawkins reported the visit and was able to obtain excellent photos of the bird. Efforts to find it the next day were not successful.

Jul 9 marked the beginning of a several day visit by some WHITE IBIS in Kent County. The first observer was Nancy Wyman who reported to Walter Ellison that she had seen and photographed three immature WHITE IBIS that day while following the route of the Chesapeake Farms Auto Tour. Walter and Nancy Martin of Chestertown immediately drove to Chesapeake Farms and successfully relocated the birds. These WHITE IBIS stayed around until at least Jul 14 and provided delightful viewing for a stream of birders that sought out the Auto Tour. A few days later, on Jul 21, five other WHITE IBIS showed up in a fly-by past the Cecil County Administration Building in Elkton. Sean McCandless attained a close-up view of the flock and provided the report. This group included one adult bird along with four juveniles.

And finally, there were two additional very brief visits to our state by birds that deserve mention, even though they did not stay long enough to be seen by the many state birders who would have loved to see them. The first sighting was of a lone EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, a species that continues to be hard to find in our state. This bird was seen in Worcester County on Apr 15 near the end of the road at Figgs Landing. The observer was Marcia Balestri of Ocean City. No additional sightings of this bird were reported. The second special visitor was a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER reported and photographed by Mike Burchett of Berlin, Worcester County. This bird was initially found by Kiah Williams on Jun 18. Unfortunately, it was in the restricted access area of Assateague Island National Seashore when seen, and did not exit that area for any of the birders who may have wanted to chase it.



2015 Annual MOS Conference

Hagerstown, MD, May 15-17

by Maureen Harvey

Attendees at the 2015 conference in Washington County totaled 169. Jim Green, who works every Saturday during the warm months and was unable to attend, did a nice job of planning most of the field trips and arranging expert leaders for several trips, including the all-day trips. He scouted many Washington Co. locations, provided detailed birding directions, and among his other efforts, contacted gatekeepers at Ft Frederick State Park to arrange for early morning access. Additional location information was provided by folks in the Washington and Frederick Co. Bird Clubs. Thirty-six field trips were offered to twenty-two locations plus four adventurous all-day trips. Most field trips were limited to fifteen participants with listers' trips and a couple of others limited

to ten, because of parking or road conditions. All told, the trips offered choices to diverse habitats along waterways, in forests, or at higher elevations. All did not go as smoothly as hoped. Two trips (Frederick Co. listers' and Sugarloaf Mountain) were cancelled because of lack of participants, and the trip to Gathland State Park had participants but no assigned leader. For Gathland, Meg Harris, one of those who signed up, was brave enough to take the helm and lead the group to the visitor's center for advice from the ranger on where to bird. It was not the easy walk expected as it was on a rather rough section of the Appalachian Trail, so the participants came back early, disappointed with a short list of 15 birds. That said, most other trips were well planned, well-attended, and very birdy. The Allegany Co. listers' trip was led by J.B. Churchill, with Kathy Calvert assembling and leading the folks to meet him at Rocky Gap State Park. Mikey Lutmerding slipped away from his young family to enthusiastically lead the Washington Co. listers' trip, and although he was quite elated about the successful birding upon his return to Hager Hall afterwards, he was quick to exit back to his fatherly duties, having missed his little ones. The ever-garrulous geologist Dennis Coskren led a memorable field trip featuring the fascinating Blue Ridge geology, Hagerstown Valley portion of the Great Appalachian Valley, and the western portion of the Maryland Piedmont. As in the past two conferences, the two night owling field trips were limited to twenty people who signed up in advance. The "owlers" were led by Steve Huy and Mark Abdy to Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area at Blairs Valley Lake. Steve Huy is the lead researcher for Project OwlNet's Lamb's Knoll Banding Station, one of the two conservation-related projects that split the proceeds from the Silent Auction and Raffle.

Maryanne Dolan did her usual excellent job of putting together conference workshops. On Friday afternoon, Cecil's Sean McCandless gave a popular warbler ID workshop for 46 people. The first 15 who signed up for the workshop were the lucky ones who went Saturday morning to C&O Canal at Four Locks on a warbler-focused field trip with Sean (and his volunteer driver Nancy O'Hara). The other participants were given the chance to sign up in advance for a field trip of their choice, and most chose warbler-rich venues along the C&O Canal. On Saturday morning, Ikumi Kayama gave a sketching workshop, a first for MOS. Her 15 students came out enthusiastic to continue to practice their new skills, and she enjoyed her teaching experience so much that she offered to lead another workshop in the future.

Friday evening's keynote speaker was Tim Schreckengost, University of DE Master's Degree Candidate in Wildlife Ecology. Tim shared the progress of his research into avian migration using radar tracking data and corroborating his findings by on-the-ground bird surveys. Although the research was not yet complete, it was interesting to hear about his research methods, see the charts he had developed so far, and hear his plans for completing the work. He provided internet links to real time radar data (<http://weather.rap.ucar.edu/radar> and <http://tempest.aos.wisc/>) and explained that when the base reflectivity appears in a doughnut shape, that's a sign of migrating birds while the speed and direction (north to south or south to north) are also needed to confirm the images

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represent birds. Anyone can use this data. Have a look!

The Annual Meeting was made especially memorable this year when the American Birding Association's President Jeff Gordon presented two awards to MOS members. George Radcliffe, YMOS Chair, received the Chandler Robbins Award for his work with young birders. Our beloved and eminent Chandler Robbins received the Roger Tory Peterson Award for his many contributions to ornithology. It was a real thrill for me when Chan stood up and gave an impromptu acceptance speech complete with anecdotes about his first encounters with RTP.

We were very lucky again this year to have Dave Horvath of Mother Nature's Store in Columbia bring an outstanding assortment of books, binoculars, bird feeders, and much more. Dave was with us at our Solomon's conference last year, and we were very glad to have him back. We also had a volunteer from the Maryland Bluebird Society, Bonnie Bell, on hand to provide information about what we can do to enhance the survival rates of Eastern Bluebird nestlings.

This year Maryanne Dolan, a veteran volunteer of many past Conferences, put together a wonderful Silent Auction and Raffle. Quite a few of the Washington members helped her in this endeavor, and special mention must be made of Patuxent's Tom and Joy Loomis, longtime Silent Auction volunteers back this year after a brief absence. Maryanne actively solicited donations or purchased high-quality nature-related raffle items (see list below). The Raffle was managed differently this year to speed up the drawing process. Next to each item was a labeled container in which purchasers dropped tickets for items they wished to win, keeping their matching-numbered ticket to claim their prize, if drawn. The Silent Auction and Raffle proceeds were split between two deserving conservation-related organizations nominated by the Washington Co. Bird Club. Thanks to Maryanne and all the people who helped make it a success, MOS Treasurer Dave Webb was able to write two checks for \$825 each, one to the Beaver Creek Watershed Association and the other to Steve Huy's Lamb's Knoll Banding Station.

As always, the Research Poster Session was well received. In addition to displays by Beaver Creek Watershed Association and Project OwlNet, posters were presented on Maryland Department of Natural Resources' ongoing revisions to the State Wildlife Action Plan (Gwen Brewer), the Maryland Conservation Initiative (Frode Jacobsen), and "Using Geolocators to Track Migratory Pathways in Baltimore Orioles" (MOS research grant recipient Jin Kim).

Ellen Lawler once again did an exceptional job with the Conference pin contest. She planned, solicited entries, and managed the judging, then arranged for the production and delivery of the pins. Ikumi Kayama's winning Bobolink also graced the Conference Program.

Our conference ended with Master Birder Bob Ringler leading the final species tally after lunch on Sunday. The final tally was 137 species, including 29 warblers. Golden-winged Warbler and

Bobolink were found only on the Allegany Co. Listers' Trip. Glossy Ibis was a nice surprise at Lily Ponds. The owl trips yielded Screech Owl, Barred Owl, and Whippoorwill.

The conference would not be possible without the many volunteers. Many thanks to the 57 folks who came forward to help. I especially appreciated the cordial time spent at the registration desk with Washington Co. members. I also had frequent help and encouragement from my mentor, Past Conference Chair Janet Shields. Thank you, Janet!

Silent Auction & Raffle Items at the 2015 Conference

Among other items, the following were offered:

Basket of Beer

Christmas Balls (2 sets of hand-painted glass ornaments) by Marcia Pauling

Pottery Bowl by Del Martin

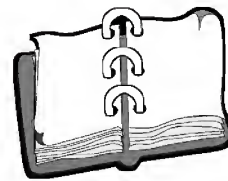
Chesapeake Treasures Fishing Creel from Maureen Harvey

Gift Item from Anna Hutzler

Watercolor by Ellen Lawler

Nature Sketches by Ikumi Kayama

Pelagic Trip out of Lewes DE by Seelife Pelagics



MOS Calendar Sep - Oct 2015 By Marilyn Veek

Saturday, August 29

H Baltimore. Patterson Park. Early migrant swallows, flycatchers, resident American Kestrel and Wood Ducks and more in this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. Stroll with Audubon Maryland-DC among gardens, wetlands, and the Boat Lake. This event is a regularly scheduled bird walk open to the public. 8 AM. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

H Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kick-off to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds, including early warblers. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen

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and bug spray are strongly recommended. Meet at the Turkey Point parking lot at 7 AM. Half day. From the town of North East, go south on Rte 272 about 11 miles. The road ends at the parking lot. Leader: Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

MOS. BOARD MEETING. 10 AM. Hosted by Washington County Bird Club. Location TBD. Contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com for additional info.

Patuxent. Trip to Turf Farm and Bombay Hook and other shore locales for migrant shorebirds. 7 AM. Meet at Bowie P&R. Leader: David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Sunday, August 30

Talbot. Blackwalnut Point and other areas on Tilghman Island in search of late nesting species, plus early arriving southbound transient warblers, swallows, flycatchers, and vireos. 7:30 AM. Blackwater Point parking lot. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875, or Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009.

Tuesday, September 1

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379 or ruthec@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** "Elaborate Female Song and Coloration in Tropical Orioles - Why Our Baltimore Oriole is Exceptional" with *Kevin Omland*, PhD, Biology professor at UMBC. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

Wednesday, September 2

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM - noon. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Baltimore. Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing an evening series at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6 - 8 PM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Bird Feeding in America – A Story of Wild Birds, Innovation, and Conservation" by *Paul Baicich*. Book signing to follow. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com. Meetings begin at 7 PM at the Carroll Nonprofit Center at 255 Clifton Blvd in Westminster with a brief period for socializing, followed by the guest lecturer. Afterwards, there will be a short

business meeting.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBD. 7 PM at Elkton High School, Room B120, 110 James St, Elkton.

Thursday, September 3

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Paul Napier* will talk about bird banding at Cape May, including its history, why raptors migrate through Cape May, and scientific results. 7 PM at Homewood at Cruiland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

Patuxent. Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Both the Luther Goldman Trail and along Indian Creek. 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more info.

Saturday, September 5

Baltimore. North Point SP. We will walk down the path to Black Marsh Wildlands, a great spot for various wetland birds, raptors, warblers and flycatchers. The woods around the Black Marsh area host many woodpeckers and vireos, and we can head down to the beach to check for terns. Scopes very useful. Path tends to be very muddy, and don't forget your bug spray. 8:15 AM. Meet in the parking lot just after the toll booth. There is a fee of \$3 per car to enter the park. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net, or 410-823-2962.

Howard. Butterflies through Binoculars – Lake Elkhorn Powerline Vegetation Management Study Tract. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies, and receive expert instruction on their identification. Dick will add info about caterpillar host and adult nectar plants as we encounter various species. Easy walking in the garden plot and on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior, but Dick will also use net and jars to provide brief close-up examinations if requested. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities. 9:30 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Leader: Dick Smith, RichardSmith9070@verizon.net or 410-997-7439.

Patuxent. Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area jointly with PG Audubon. 7:30 AM. Meet at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rte 197 just north of Bowie State College. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com, for more info.

Sunday, September 6

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of

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migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Caroline. Tuckahoe SP – Adkins Arboretum. Leader: Eli Anders. Meet at the Caroline County side of Lake parking lot on Cherry Lane at 8 AM. For more info, contact Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com.

Howard. Rockburn Branch Park. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. 8 AM. Half day. Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn Elementary School. Leaders: Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.

Talbot. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Expect a good selection of migrating land birds and a variety of shorebirds at the newly established wetlands. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or be at Pickering Creek parking lot at 7:30 AM. Leader: Les Coble, 410-820-6165.

Monday, September 7

Harford. Ma and Pa Trail. Explore the southernmost segment of this popular trail, walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Road and back. Diverse habitat along the way supports a variety of birds. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston. Leader: Susan Hood, 410-937-7552 or susanhood@comcast.net.

Tuesday, September 8

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Bill and Debbie Devlin will speak on St. Lucia. 7 PM at Compton Hall, Room TBD, Frostburg State University.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Marty Brazeau, 410 583-0275 or tropicbirder56@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Board meeting. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom, Baltimore.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison or Nancy Martin,

410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, D.C. Urban birding at its best with one of Rock Creek Park's "Regulars." Migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet at 6:45 AM at Picnic Area 18 on Ridge Rd, 1/2 mile below Nature Center. One-third day. Reservations required. For reservations and directions call the leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** Dr. Doug Gill on Birding Thailand. 7:30 PM. College Park Aviation Museum.

Wednesday, September 9

Baltimore. Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing an evening series at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6 - 8 PM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Montgomery. Wheaton Regional Park. Fall is the best time to find migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers (Yellow-bellied is a good possibility) in this interesting park. Reservations required. Limit:10. For more info about meeting time and place and for reservations e-mail the leaders: Woody and Rae Dubois, denguel@verizon.net.

Washington. Enjoy a morning of birding at Fort Frederick SP. Leave from the DMV parking lot at 7:30 AM. Call Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to register.

Thursday, September 10

Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. 7:30 AM. Half day. Meet at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Circle, Columbia, MD 21044. Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Behind the Scenes of the MD/DC Records Committee," by Phil Davis. Having served as the committee secretary for 20 years, Phil will outline the history, role and functions of the committee and share images of and anecdotes about some of our region's more unusual and interesting records. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: Robin Todd, 410-491-5333.

Saturday, September 12

Allegany/Garrett. Field trip to Dolly Sods Bird Banding Station. Leaders: Joe & Carol McDaniel, mcdanieljandc@gmail.com.

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com.

Baltimore. Youth Birding at Cromwell Valley Park, Willow Grove. We begin our season at one of the best birding areas near Baltimore at the height of fall migration. We can look for all sorts of sparrows, warblers, flycatchers and various other migrants, along with lingering summer residents. Start the season by learning how to identify all the confusing fall birds! Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the Nature Education Center, 2175 Cromwell Bridge Road (the second entrance off Cromwell Valley Road). Leader: John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

Carroll. Cromwell Valley Park Hawk Watch. Cromwell Valley is a great place to see hawks locally. 9 AM, half-day trip. Meet at the parking lot at the intersection of Rtes 32 and 97 to form carpools. Contact C.J. McAuliffe at 443-398-6483.

Frederick. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Contact leader for meeting place and time: Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677.

Harford. Tydings Park Kayak Trip. Enjoy an evening on the upper Bay with Colleen Webster and Sue Procell as your guides. Waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls and terns can be expected. Bring your own boat and meet at the boat launch in the park at 5 PM. Contact Colleen, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu, for info.

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Easy walking through the fields of Mt Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 8 AM – 2 PM. Two hour bird walk followed by a four hour hawk watch. Meet at parking lot. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, D.C. We've expanded our urban bird walks to include those who can meet only on weekends. Same great birds: migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet at 6:45 AM at Picnic Area 18 on Ridge Rd, ½ mile below the nature center. Note the earlier meeting time necessary to secure a parking spot. One-third day. Reservations required. For reservations and directions call the leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

YMOs. Possible trip TBD. Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 13

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park Family & Beginner Bird Walk. We will be mostly off trail on grassy paths and will visit

several bluebird boxes to check for progress. Walks are fair weather only. 8 AM. Half day. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after passing the unmanned entry gate, 1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd. Trip lasts 2 to 3 hours; however, attendees are free to leave at any time. Contact Stacy Epperson at 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

Anne Arundel. Cabin Branch Restoration Area. David Gillum will lead this easy access monthly walk that begins in the Annapolis Bowl parking lot, which is around the corner from Annapolis Mall. The Severn Riverkeeper Program has worked to turn around a degraded section of property into a lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. 8 AM - 11 AM. Meet at Annapolis Bowl, 2057 Generals Hwy. Contact David Gillum at 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Please join us for a bird walk at the height of fall migration in a 120 acre wilderness park in west Baltimore City. The park contains mature and secondary forest as well as riparian habitats and some limited field habitat. 8 AM. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot, on north side of Franklinton Road. Leaders: Elise and Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194, ekreiss@verizon.net, paulkreiss@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Talbot. Join us for a trip to the Governor Bridge Natural Area on the shores of the Patuxent River in Prince Georges County, about an hour's drive from Easton. Should be good for lots of fall migrants. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009.

Monday, September 14

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker: *Don Messersmith* - subject to be announced. 7 PM at Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, September 15

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, September 16

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Enjoy a up-close look at live birds of prey, exciting videos of regional birds and mammals by club

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member *Pierre Henkart*, a “Nestlings” presentation by club member *Colin Rees*, plus bird games, bird facts, a sale of bird-related items, and more, including refreshments! Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com. 7-9 PM, Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Center.

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Easy walking through the fields of Mt Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 7:30 AM. Half day. Meet at parking lot. Leader: Warren Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com or 410-925-1809.

Thursday, September 17

MEETING. **Caroline.** Bird Quiz by *Danny Poet* and members. Refresh your bird identification skills in a fun way. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent. Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more info.

Saturday, September 19

Anne Arundel. Governor Bridge Road. Bobbi Reichwein will lead this trip to a mixed habitat along the river near Bowie, MD. The river habitat attracts a variety of land and water birds. This is a common area to hear or see Barred Owls and should be good for migrants at this time of year. 7:30 AM. Half day. Meet at Parole P&R or access the Governor Bridge site off Route 301S. Contact Bobbi Reichwein at 410-798-5940 or b.reichwein@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Saturday morning monitoring walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM - noon. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 410 788-4080 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC SwiftWatch Team as Chimney Swifts enter a favorite chimney at sunset. We're expecting hundreds, even thousands of swifts. Due to the fact that the swifts routinely change migration roosting chimneys, this year's fall site will be posted on the BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/) on Friday, Sep 19. 6:45 - 7:30 PM. Come a half hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net

Cecil. Woodlawn Wildlife Area. Woodlawn is a restored landfill that is a model for transforming an eyesore into a sight

for sore eyes. Join us for a leisurely stroll around the fields and woods of this re-awakening natural area. Meet at 8 AM at the Woodlawn parking area for a half-day nature walk. Carpooling is encouraged. Leader: Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

BIG SIT. **Harford.** Matt Hafner, 410-971-3203 or hafner.matt@gmail.com, is the organizer of this new event. Details will follow via the HBC website, www.harfordbirdclub.org.

Montgomery. Snickers Gap Hawkwatch, between Bluemont & Berryville, VA. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Two-thirds day. Meet at 10 AM at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Make reservations (required) with leaders: Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams at icepeep@aol.com or 703-734-1238 (home). Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, pack lunch, and rain/wind gear. Call leaders for directions.

Patuxent. Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area jointly with PG Audubon. 7:30 AM. Meet at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Rd, a mile from Rte 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

FALL COUNT. **Baltimore.** Contact Joel Martin for details. 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com.

FALL COUNT. **Caroline.** Contact Debby Bennett for details, 410-479-2978 or dabennett1996@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. **Carroll.** Contact Don Jewell for details, 410-259-4716 or jewelldg@gmail.com. Tally Rally will be hosted by Maureen and Dave Harvey at their home. If you will be attending the rally, please RSVP to the Harveys at 410-795-3117 no later than Wednesday, September 17th. Plan on bringing a food item or a cash donation (\$5).

FALL COUNT (HAWK WATCH). **Cecil.** Contact Pat Valdata for details, 410-398-2603 or pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

FALL COUNT. **Dorchester.** Contact Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com if you can contribute to the 20th annual count of all birds seen in Maryland's largest county. Any small area coverage would be helpful. Sunday rain date.

FALL COUNT. **Howard.** Please sign up at howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm. Contact Mike McClure for details, 410-531-2780 or Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu.

FALL COUNT. **Talbot.** Fall count at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. PCAC has become one of the best locations in Talbot to bird at any season. If you can help, contact coordinator Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

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FALL COUNT. **Washington.** Contact Doris Berger at 301-739-8907 to participate.

FALL COUNT. **YMOS.** Taylor's Island, Dorchester County. 4 AM to 5 PM. We'll begin early, but there will be overnight lodging provided near the location for participating birders. The trip is open to anyone, although more suitable for medium to advanced birders, and you can come for it all or part time. More detailed info will be sent out in advance of the count. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, September 20

Baltimore. Lake Roland Park, aka Robert E Lee Park. Popular birding location off Falls Road near Lake Avenue. 8 AM. Meet at the Ranger Station. Cancelled if raining. Leader: Peter Lev, 410 823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

Montgomery. Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other land bird migrants, and probably a few early winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. Limit: 12. Half day. For folks who prefer a somewhat later start to their birding, we will meet at 9 AM at the Violette's Lock parking lot, end of Violette's Lock Rd. We will then carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. To sign up, contact leader: Jim Nelson, 240-515-4517 or kingfishers2@verizon.net.

Talbot. Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe SP. Adkins is one of the premier fall migration spots on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Expect to see lots of warblers, flycatchers, and vireos as well as early migrating raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking Lot 6:30 AM or meet leaders at boat ramp in Tuckahoe SP on Queen Anne's County side at 7 AM. Leader: Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376.

FALL COUNT. **Allegany/Garrett.** Contact Chuck Hager for details, 301-689-5344 or drhager@verizon.net.

FALL COUNT. **Calvert.** Contact Sherman Suter for details, 202-326-6523 or ssuter@aaas.org.

FALL COUNT. **Harford.** Contact Rick Cheicante for details, 410-803-2712 or rickcheicante@cs.com.

FALL COUNT. **Patuxent.** Contact Dave Mozurkewich for details, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Tuesday, September 22

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series

of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: John Landers, 410 292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com.

MEETING. **Washington.** Program: "MD Biodiversity Project" with *Jim Brighton*. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Wednesday, September 23

Harford. Eden Mill/Falling Branch Trail Walk. Dennis Kirkwood is the leader for this 2-mile walk which begins at 7:30 AM. Meet at the Eden Mill Nature Center pavilion parking lot off of Eden Mill Rd. Contact Dennis at 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Pontoon boat trip at Jug Bay. 8:30 AM. Meet at Jug Bay (PG side) dockside. For PBC/PGAS members only; reservations required. Leader: Greg Kearns.

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP from 9:30 AM to noon. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot at 9:30. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Saturday, September 26

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8 - 9:30 AM. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410 558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants. Join peerless warbler finder Sean McCandless at Turkey Point, where the fall warblers are plentiful. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. Meet at the Turkey Point parking lot at 7 AM for a half-day trip. From the town of North East, go south on Rte 272 about 11 miles. The road ends at the parking lot. Trip leader: Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

Frederick. Gambrill SP and Frederick Watershed. Search for migrating fall warblers. Contact leader for meeting place and time: Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690.

Harford. Susquehanna SP. Visit this ornithological treasure trove to marvel at the resident populations embellished by the fall

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migrants. Meet at the Rock Run Mill on Stafford Rd at 8 AM. Leader is Tim Houghton, thoughton@loyola.edu or 410-510-7504.

Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince Georges Co. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Meet at 6:30 AM at park entrance gate (or visitor center parking lot if gate open). Half day. Bring fee of \$6 per person for park program. Boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Reservations required (15-person limit). Make reservations with John Bjerke at 240-401-1643 or johnbjerke1@mac.com.

Washington. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Burnside Bridge parking lot for birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Trip is co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Sunday, September 27

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Harford. Turkey Point. The view from Turkey Point Peninsula during the southern migration of raptors and other birds is spectacular. The North East River on the northwest side, the Chesapeake Bay to the south, and the Elk River to the east funnel the flocks right overhead in a concentrated flow. It is prime viewing for birders and a prime view of the headwaters of the Bay. Meet at 7 AM at the Havre de Grace P&R at the junction of Rte 155 and I-95. Phil Powers will be leading this trip, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

Talbot. Taylor's Island, Dorchester County. Quest for late fall migrants, early wintering arrivals, both land birds and waterfowl. Expect Bald Eagles, some kinglets, flycatchers, vireos. Less common species: Swainson's Thrush, Cape May Warbler. We have permission to visit private lands in our quest for unusual sightings. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Brunch/breakfast after birding at a local restaurant/country store. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, September 29

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual walks to follow the progress of Fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Michael Bradley, michaelbradley023@

gmail.com.

Thursday, October 1

MEETING. Frederick. Club member *Bob Schaeffer* will speak on his travels in Australia. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

Patuxent. Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more info.

Friday - Sunday, October 2 - 4

Anne Arundel. Chincoteague Bay Field Station. Peter Hanan will lead this three-day trip to Chincoteague and Wallops Island. We will visit the back areas of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and also inside the restricted area of Wallops Island to walk a beach that's not accessible to the general public. We also will go out on a research boat and collect specimens from the waters surrounding Chincoteague. The cost for the weekend is \$250 per person and includes lodging at the college style rooms, meals (very good food), transportation into the back areas, and guide service by Field Station staff. A limited number of people can attend this trip, so you **MUST** sign up in advance. Meet at Parole park-and-ride for carpooling. Contact & RSVP Peter Hanan at 301-580-2785C or hanan.peter@verizon.net.

Frederick. Cape May. Search this wonderful area for migrating birds, especially raptors. We plan to travel to Cape May on the 2nd, bird all day Saturday and Sunday morning and return Sunday afternoon. Reserve your room at the West Cape Motel, 609-884-4280. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

Saturday, October 3

Baltimore. Cape May Hawkwatch. All-day excursion – bring lunch – to spend day mostly at the hawk watch platform at Cape May. Observing hawks flying by, with possible uncommon seabirds in view out over the water. Optional walks around the impoundment for migrant waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. A few late migrant songbirds are possible in the trees next to the platform. Last year, 80 bird species were seen or heard during 4 hours at the platform. Option for some observers - stay there overnight and bird more on Sunday. Participants continuing into Sunday morning might expect over 100 species for the weekend. Rain date Oct 10. 7 AM sharp. Meet at Cromwell Bridge Road P&R. Leaders: Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Harford. Swan Harbor Farm Park. This preserved area near the upper bay provides prime habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. The field trip begins at 7:30 AM at the

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parking lot at the end of the driveway. Contact leaders Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com, or John Gallo, 410-459-0584 or jcgallo29@gmail.com, for further info.

Howard. Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers are generally in abundance. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities. 8 AM. 2-3 hours. Meet at Dockside parking lot. Leader: Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.

Patuxent. Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon. 7:30 AM. Meet at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rte 197 just north of Bowie State College. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

YMOS. Hawk Migration and Sea Watch at Cape May. 5 AM to 9 PM. Though a long day, this is a great trip for all levels of birders. We'll carpool from both the Western and Eastern Shore and spend the day in Cape May during the peak of raptor migration. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4

Talbot. Kiptopeke SP and Environs at the southern terminus of the Delmarva Peninsula. Early October is peak migration for numerous land, shore and waterbirds but the specialty is raptors. Kiptopeke can act as a funnel concentrating hundreds of Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, Sharp-shinned Hawks and American Kestrels that can be seen from the Hawk Watch platform. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and other land birds can be seen in the surrounding habitats. This Park is a 3-hour drive from Easton so we will make a weekend trip, leaving from the Acme Parking lot Saturday at a time to be determined. There are limited accommodations available in yurts located at the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch (Harry Armistead) or local hotels are available in Cape Charles. This trip will be planned if there is enough interest. Please contact leaders at least 2 weeks prior to the trip, if interested: Charles Hopkins, 410-763-8742, or Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376.

Sunday, October 4

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park Family & Beginner Bird Walk. We will be mostly off trail on grassy paths and will visit several bluebird boxes to check for progress. Walks are fair weather only. 8 AM. Half day. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after passing the unmanned entry gate (1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd.) Trip lasts 2 to 3 hours; however, attendees are free to leave at any time. Contact Stacy Epperson at 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Easy birding in

Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. No designated leader. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Montgomery. Little Bennett Regional Park. We'll slowly walk some of the woodland trails looking for migrant and resident birds. All are welcome on this half day trip but we especially encourage new members and those new to birding to join us. Meet at 7:30 AM. Reservations required. Limit: 8. For reservations and directions contact the leader: Gemma Radko 301-514-2894.

Talbot. Terrapin Park, on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay north of the Bay Bridge can be a wonderful migrant stopover in the fall, with numerous warblers, thrushes, orioles and early raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM or meet leader at the Terrapin Park parking lot at 7:30. Leader: Danny Poet, 401-827-8651

Tuesday, October 6

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjisc@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** "Patterson Park, The Miracle Pond" with *Middleton Evans*, author and photographer. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

Wednesday, October 7

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM - noon. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Early Bird Books and Art before Audubon" by *Janet Millenson*. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the Carroll Nonprofit Center at 255 Clifton Blvd in Westminster with a brief period for socializing, followed by the guest lecturer. Afterwards, there will be a short business meeting. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBD. 7 PM at Elkton High School, Room B120, 110 James St, Elkton.

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot. 9:30 AM - noon. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at

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monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Thursday, October 8

MEETING. Howard. "The Physics and Evolution of Flight," by *Tom Reider*. How did birds gain such fluid movement to become air-born, stay aloft, and land safely? What adaptations allow birds to specialize in speed, hovering and slow flight. Tom will answer these questions using picture, models, feathers and bones. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Robin Todd, 410-491-5333.

Friday, October 9 - Sunday, October 11

Carroll. Cape May. A weekend at one of the premier migration spots on the East Coast. Who knows what species might show up? Participants will be expected to make their own motel reservations. For more info, contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792.

Saturday, October 10

Allegany/Garrett. Field Trip to Town Hill. Meet Ray Kiddy to watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity, but we may have a better chance for some interesting birds, like Golden Eagles (with favorable weather conditions) as well. Meet: P&R, Ali Ghan Rd & Christie Rd, Exit 46, off I-68. Bring lunch & a drink. Contact Ray at (301)739-1972 or rrkiddy@atlanticbb.com for more info.

BIG SIT.

Big Sit **Anne Arundel.** Ft. Smallwood Park. Bring some comfortable seating, food, drinks and meet and enjoy the camaraderie of club members. Limited walking since there's a count circle. This doesn't stop you from walking around and exploring Fort Smallwood while you are on site. \$6 per car park entry fee. Ask at gate for location. Dawn to dusk. You can stay all day or stop in and count for part of the day. Contact Tom and Sharon Bradford at 410-987-0674 or tabslab@aol.com.

Baltimore. Youth birding at Oregon Ridge Park. We'll explore the fields and woods for migrating birds (and insects!). For those who have not visited the Nature Center before, we'll spend some time admiring the displays and info available inside. The variety of habitats allows us to see a good variety of birds, and we'll have plenty of opportunities to get to know both the common residents of the area, and the less common migrants that pass through on their way south. 8 AM. Leader: John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

Baltimore. Rain date for Cape May Hawkwatch trip (see October 3).

Big SIT. **Caroline.** Location: Adkins Arboretum's Wetlands Overlook. Will run early morning into the evening for some owling. Details will be listed on Caroline's Facebook page and blog: <http://carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/>.

BIG SIT. **Montgomery.** Join the Sitting Ducks at Black Hill Regional Park starting at dawn and continuing until? Come for the day or just a few hours. Meet at the dike across the road from the park boat ramp. For more info or directions contact the leader: Chuck Parker at 240 446-8423 or chparker@access.k12.wv.us.

Saturday, October 10 or Sunday, October 11

BIG SIT. **Cecil.** *Note: The specific day will be decided based on weather - check www.cecilbirds.org for an update.* Our BIG SIT! count circle will be based at the big cedar tree near the lighthouse at Turkey Point. Chris Starling will be our official counter. The Turkey Pointers Circle often reports the highest number of species among the Maryland BIG SIT! circles. Can we do it again? All are welcome to join the Turkey Point BIG SIT! circle, so pack some food and drink and come on out to join us. Chris and Sean will start at 4:30 AM; you may come whenever you like and stay for as long as you like. Hint: if you have any goodies to share, you might want to pack some extras for our stalwart BIG SIT! counters, to keep their spirits up for the long haul. It is not necessary to contact the leader before this event, just come on out any time during the day. Leaders: TBD.

Sunday, October 11

Allegany/Garrett. Banner's Overlook in Green Ridge State Forest. Co-sponsored with Home Ground. 10 AM – 1 PM. Meet at the P&R, Ali Ghan Rd & Christie Rd, Exit 46, off I-68. Bring lunch & a drink. Contact: Mary Huebner, marybrd22@gmail.com.

Anne Arundel. Cabin Branch Restoration Area. David Gillum will lead this easy access monthly walk that begins in the Annapolis Bowl parking lot, which is around the corner from Annapolis Mall. The Severn Riverkeeper Program has worked to turn around a degraded section of property into a lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. 8 AM - 11 AM. Meet at Annapolis Bowl, 2057 Generals Hwy. Contact David Gillum at 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Harford. Cromwell Valley Park. Expect surprises during late

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fall migration at this Baltimore County park. Meet at 7 AM at the P&R on Fallston Rd (Rt 152) just north of Harford Rd (Rt 147). The co-leaders are Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu, and Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

Talbot. Wades Point Inn. Spend the early morning looking through a variety of habitats including broad reaches of Eastern Bay, fields, woods, a freshwater pond that attracts puddle ducks as well as a nice mix of migrants. Meet at the Claiborne Boat Landing at 7 AM. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.

Talbot. After the morning walk at Wade's Point we will convene at Blackwalnut Point parking lot hawk watch. We will view the hawk migration along the bay front at least until noon. For mid-October, any raptor commonly found in the eastern U.S. may be observed heading south. Number of migrating hawks depends on weather and wind direction. Field guides and visual aids will be available for first time hawk watchers. Bring drinks, lunch or snacks and a lawn chair to relax and enjoy the show. Leaders: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875, and Andrew Bullen, 410-763-8156.

Monday, October 12

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker and subject TBD. 7 PM at Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, October 13

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Dr. Ellen Lawler will speak on Birding Florida – The Dry Tortugas. 7 PM at Compton Hall, Room TBD, Frostburg State University.

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Board meeting. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom, Baltimore.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 pm, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** Sam Droege: The Birds and the Bees: and why the bees are more interesting and more important than the

birds. 7:30 PM. College Park Aviation Museum.

Wednesday, October 14

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot. 9:30 AM - noon. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Thursday, October 15

MEETING. **Caroline.** Program TBD. 7:30 PM, Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

Patuxent. Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more info.

Saturday, October 17

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of Kinder Farm Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 8 AM. Half day. Leaders: Alan and Susan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Baltimore. Hawks Festival at Cromwell Valley Park. Bird walk from the parking lot, followed by hawk watch and identification classes at the hawkwatch observation area across the field and up the hill from the parking area. 8 AM. Leader: Jim Meyers, 410-665-2440 or jamesleomeyers@mac.com.

Baltimore. Saturday morning monitoring walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM - noon. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader: Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

Caroline. Bird Walk at Tuckahoe SP. Meet at Queen Anne's side parking lot near boat ramp at 8 AM. Leader: Danny Poet.

Cecil. Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's loveliest birding spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different fall migrants. Portions of the trail may be muddy, so boots are recommended. Meet at 8 AM for this half-day trip at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot near the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Trip Leader: Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

Frederick. Lilypons/Greenfield Road. Local morning search

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for migrants and early waterfowl. A great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders. Contact leader for meeting place and time: Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Creek Woodland to enjoy the late fall avian spectacle. Gather at the Ranger station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd at 7:30 AM. The leaders are Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mwmagnani@gmail.com and Rachel Hebert, 443-299-8384 or hebert.rachel2@gmail.com.

SPARROW BIG DAY. Howard. Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Going for 12 species! Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. All day. Limit: 12 people. Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 443-285-3302 to sign up and get info.

Patuxent. Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area jointly with PG Audubon. 7:30 AM. Meet at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Rd, a mile from Rte 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Washington. Indian Springs WMA. Leave from the DMV parking lot at 7:30 AM for a half-day trip. Contact Mark Abdy at 301-432-7696 or Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register.

Sunday, October 18

Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. This park is a little more manicured than most areas, but it does have a variety of birds and also access to water. At this time of year you could start seeing some ducks and other waterfowl. This trip is open to members and will be publicized with Quiet Waters Park for the public so they can attend. 8 AM. Half day. Meet at Parole P&R. Leaders: Pat and Juanita Tate, 410-266-6043 or jpt8@earthlink.net.

Cecil. Environmental Education Day at the Hawk Watch. Join the Cecil Bird Club Hawk Watchers and folks from Elk Neck SP to learn more about hawk watching. No experience necessary! Free and open to the public. Bring binoculars if you have them but we'll have extras, as well as spotting scopes. From the town of North East, go south on Rte 272 about 11 miles. The road ends at the parking lot.

Howard. West Friendship Park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. 7:45 AM. Meet at shopping center just west of Rte 32 and Rte 144 to carpool to nearby park. Leader: Jeff Culler, cullersfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006.

Talbot. Blackwalnut Point and other areas on Tilghman Island in search of waterfowl and late transient warblers, swallows, flycatchers, vireos and raptors. 7:30 AM. Meet at Blackwalnut Point parking lot. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009, and Jan Reese, 410-745-2875.

Tuesday, October 20

Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing in a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. This park has variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods and hillside forest. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net.

Wednesday, October 21

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Presenters: Club Members, *Pete Bungay, Bobbi Reichwein, Barbara Ricciardi, Paul Speyser*, and Harford County Club Member *Jean Wheeler*. The presenters spent two weeks in Cuba, just as U.S.-Cuba relations began to improve. The travelers birded extensively from Havana to the western province of Pinar del Rio, concentrating on extensive natural reserves and national parks. Their trek also included visits over three days to sites on the Zapata Peninsula before a run north over a causeway to Cayo Coco, the northeastern-most key of Cuba. Audience members will see their photos of Cuban birds and hear their tales of a fascinating trip to an island nation poised for imminent change. 7-9 PM. Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Center, Annapolis. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot. 9:30 AM -noon. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Friday-Sunday, October 23-25

Anne Arundel. Cape May. Peter Hanan will lead this trip to one of the best fall birding areas along the east coast. We will take the Lewes Ferry over to New Jersey and stay in the Cape May area where we will visit many of the well-known birding locations. Meet at Parole P&R at 7 AM Friday to carpool. Additional details to follow. You will need to sign up with the leader to go on this trip. Contact & RSVP Peter Hanan at 301-580-2785C or hanan.peter@verizon.net.

Saturday, October 24

Howard. Fungi Search. Explore local parkland for a variety of fall fungi. Site to be determined. May be cancelled if weather has been exceedingly dry. Afternoon. Date subject to change. Contact

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Bob/Jo Solem at odenata@msn.com.

Washington. Antietam Battlefield birding along the Final Attack Trail. Trip is co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Sunday, October 25

Baltimore. Mt Pleasant Farm Park in Howard County. Easy walking through the fields of the farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for seeing interesting sparrows and flyover hawks. Facilities available. Meet at Old Court Road P&R at 7:30 AM or meet at Mt Pleasant Farm parking lot near barn at 8 AM. Leader: Joe Hanfman. B.B.C. coordinator: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Harford. Bombay Hook. Fall visit to one of the East Coast's best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at the 155/95 P&R at 7 AM. The co-leaders are Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu, and Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Joint trip with the Baltimore Bird Club. Easy walking through the fields of Mt Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 7:30 AM. Half day. Meet at parking lot. Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Patuxent. Walk at Milltown Landing for fall sparrows, etc. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Croom Airport Rd, off Croom Rd, in Jug Bay Park, and carpool from there. Leader: David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Talbot. Chincoteague NWR, Virginia. Shorebirds, gulls and large flocks of waterfowl are the highlights of this trip to Chincoteague NWR, one of the premier birding locations on the Delmarva Peninsula. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. All day trip with dinner (and ice cream) in the town of Chincoteague. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-829-5840.

Tuesday, October 27

MEETING. Washington. Pot-luck dinner begins at 6 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Meeting follows at 7 and will include an entertaining evening of bird trivia. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Wednesday, October 28

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot. 9:30 AM -noon. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Saturday, October 31

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8 - 9:30 AM. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

Harford. Evening Owl Prowl. Join in the search for some nocturnal birds of prey. 7:30 PM. Meet at Darlington Elementary School, 2119 Shuresville Rd. Leader: Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net

Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Full day (to dusk). Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit: 12. Contact one of the leaders for meeting place and time. Co-leaders: Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500 (cell), and Ed Patton, 301-948-5648.

Sunday, November 1

(Note: Eastern Standard Time begins)

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park Family & Beginner Bird Walk. We will be mostly off trail on grassy paths and will visit several bluebird boxes to check for progress. Walks are fair weather only. 8 AM. Half day. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after passing the unmanned entry gate, 1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd. Trip lasts 2 to 3 hours; however, attendees are free to leave at any time. Contact Stacy Epperson at 410-987-7533 or stac.epperson@gmail.com.

Frederick. Local hawk watch. Date/location dependent on weather. Reservations required. Leader: Tom Humphrey, 301-696-8540.

Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. 8 AM. 2-3 hours. West end parking lot. Leaders: Karen and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.

Talbot. Ackridge Properties along Oxford Rd and Town of

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Oxford waterfront, if time permits. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leaders: Paul & Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657.

Tuesday, November 3

MEETING. **Baltimore.** "Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment" with *Robert K. Musil, PhD*, adjunct professor at American University. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

Wednesday, November 4

Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM - noon. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Osprey" by *Greg Kearns*. Meetings begin at 7 PM at the Carroll Nonprofit Center, 255 Clifton Blvd, Westminster with a brief period for socializing, followed by the guest lecturer. Afterwards, there will be a short business meeting. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBD. 7 PM at Elkton High School, Room B120, 110 James St, Elkton.

Washington. Enjoy hawk watching at Washington Monument SP. Trip is co-sponsored with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Meet Sandy Sagalkin in the upper parking lot. 9:30 AM - noon. Registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Sandy at monsansagalkin@myactv.net or 240-291-6465.

Thursday, November 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Mike Welch* will tell us about birding the Central California Coast. 7 PM at Frederick High School Heritage Room.

Saturday, November 7

Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch. This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. Last year a half-day sky watch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available.

9:30 AM. Half day. Meet at parking lot. Leader: Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

Montgomery. Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16. Meet at 8 AM. Contact one of the leaders for reservations and more info. Co-leaders: Mark England 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell) and Ed Patten, 301-948-5648.

Washington. Birding and breakfast at the County Agricultural Center off Sharpsburg Pike. 7:30 AM. Call leader George Warrick at 301-799-9059 for details.

Washington. Observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy at Lamb's Knoll. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Children are welcome. Meet at 9:15 PM at the Boonsboro P&R. Call Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 to register.

YMOS. Chincoteague NWR. This is a great opportunity to get a good luck at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Target species are herons, waterfowl, skimmers, raptors and thrushes. 5 AM to 8 PM. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat night for students coming from a distance. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Saturday - Sunday, November 7 - 8

MOS. Work Weekend at Irish Grove. Join others for a work weekend to help maintain the house and grounds of this Somerset County Sanctuary. Great birding opportunities as well. Stay overnight for free. Contact Dotty Mumford, dottymum@comcast.net or 410-849-8336, for more details and to RSVP.

Sunday, November 8

Anne Arundel. Cabin Branch Restoration Area. David Gillum will lead this easy access monthly walk that begins in the Annapolis Bowl parking lot, which is around the corner from Annapolis Mall. The Severn Riverkeeper Program has worked to turn around a degraded section of property into a lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. 8 AM - 11 AM. Meet at Annapolis Bowl, 2057 Generals Hwy. Contact David Gillum at 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

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🏠 Baltimore. Swan Harbor Farm Park. Half-day trip to Harford County hotspot for sparrows, waterfowl, raptors, Horned Larks and other birds of this transitional season. Meet 7 AM at Cromwell Bridge P&R or 8 AM at Swan Harbor. Leaders: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-823-2962 and Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net.

🏠 Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

🏠 Carroll. Town Hill Hawk Watch in Allegany County. We will settle in to look for Golden Eagles among other migrants. Up to all day. Meet at 8 AM at the P&R on Rte 32 just south of Rte 26



Maryland Biodiversity Project

So what is a Large Twayblade? Glad you asked.

Large Twayblade is a rare orchid found in Maryland. In mid-May, Gwen Brewer and I were lucky to find this small plant with light purple flowers in our new front yard in Lothian. Also known as the orchid has a state conservation rank of S2, state rare. We found the leaves of the plants last fall, but flowers really make identification to species possible. Come mid-May, the plants flowered and Gwen went to her handy Newcomb's Wildflower Guide to try to figure out the identity of the plant. We wanted to learn more and so went to the Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) website at www.marylandbiodiversity.com.

From that powerful resource we were able to determine where else it had been found in Maryland. Our record was the first for Anne Arundel County. It has also been found in eleven other counties in Maryland, but not on the Eastern Shore yet. Newcomb says found from New England south, but not much else.

The MBP has much more than plant information. MBP is focused on cataloging all the living things of Maryland. The goal is to promote education and conservation by helping to build a vibrant nature study community. The project was started in June 2012 (*Editor's note... see brief item in Sept/Oct 2012 issue of The Maryland Yellowthroat*) and, since it began, new species of plants and animals have been documented on the site for the state. No birds – sorry!

Imagine any plant or animal that might be in Maryland, and you are likely to find information and color photographs at this site.

The MBP includes birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, snails, puppy dog tails, etc., I am kidding about the puppy dog tails, but so far the two folks that started the project, Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton, have done an amazing job of cataloging nearly 16,000 species, including over 6,000 species with photographs, which features the work of more than 400 naturalists and photographers. The project also has easy to use range maps so you can see where your plant or animal has been documented in Maryland.

I am unaware of another state with a project like this. With the collaboration of many individuals, this site has quickly been recognized as a valuable resource---- so valuable the Internal Revenue Service recently granted the Maryland Biodiversity Project 501(c)3 non-profit status at the state and federal level. What this means to me and others is that we can donate money to the project, and deduct it from our income tax. Tax-exempt donations will be applied to on-line resources and outreach, events like BioBlitzes, equipment, and ultimately assistance with managing the huge volume of photos and data these two guys are now processing. Their public charity status is also a key step in allowing them to partner formally with state agencies and academia.

If you want to contribute your sightings and photographs please contact the site gurus: Bill Hubick at bill_hubick@yahoo.com or Jim Brighton at jmbrighton3@gmail.com. Since both of these people have day jobs, please be patient if you do want to contribute.

If you wish to help further this valuable resource you can click the Donate button in the top-right of any page at MBP. As soon as I could I donated \$100. I hope some of you will find this resource supportable at whatever level you can afford. I know this appeal sounds like a public radio beg-a-thon, but if you want to use it you should support the resource. If you think this is a valuable natural history website I hope you will join me in helping to promote the project.

George Jett
Lothian, MD



Photo of *Liparis liliifolia* in George & Gwen's front yard.

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by Sep 25, 2015 for the Nov/Dec 2015 issue.

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